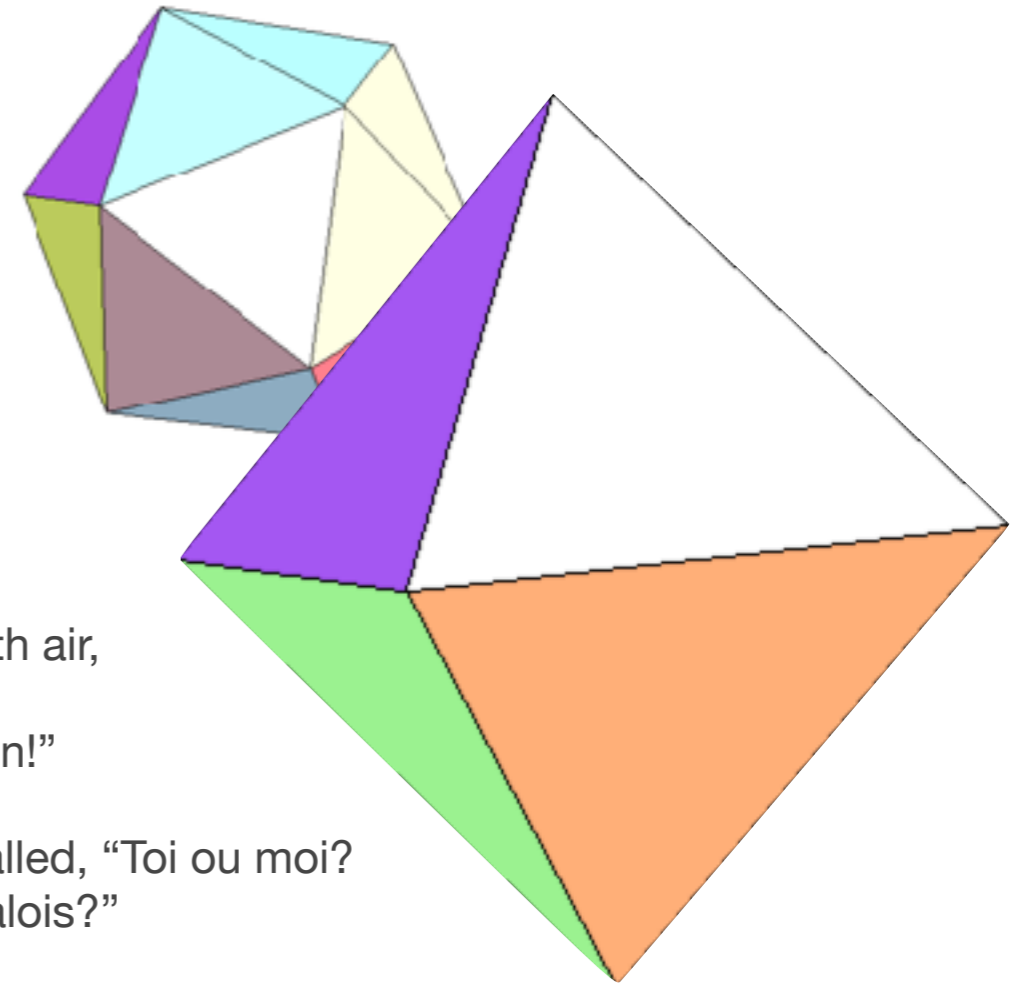
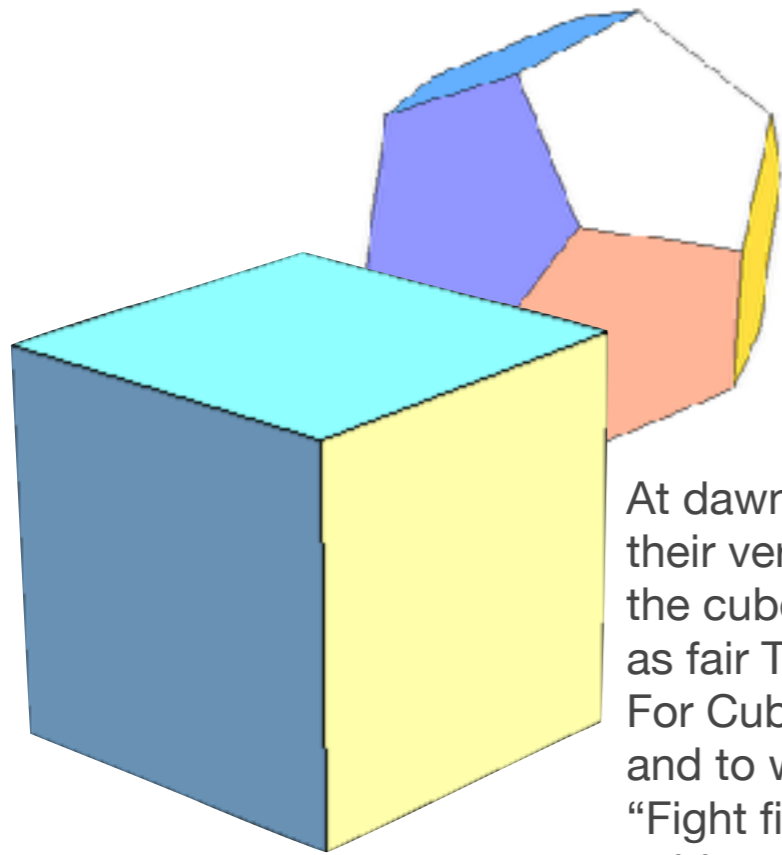


Forms and Formulae

Poetry at MathsJam Annual Gathering 2017

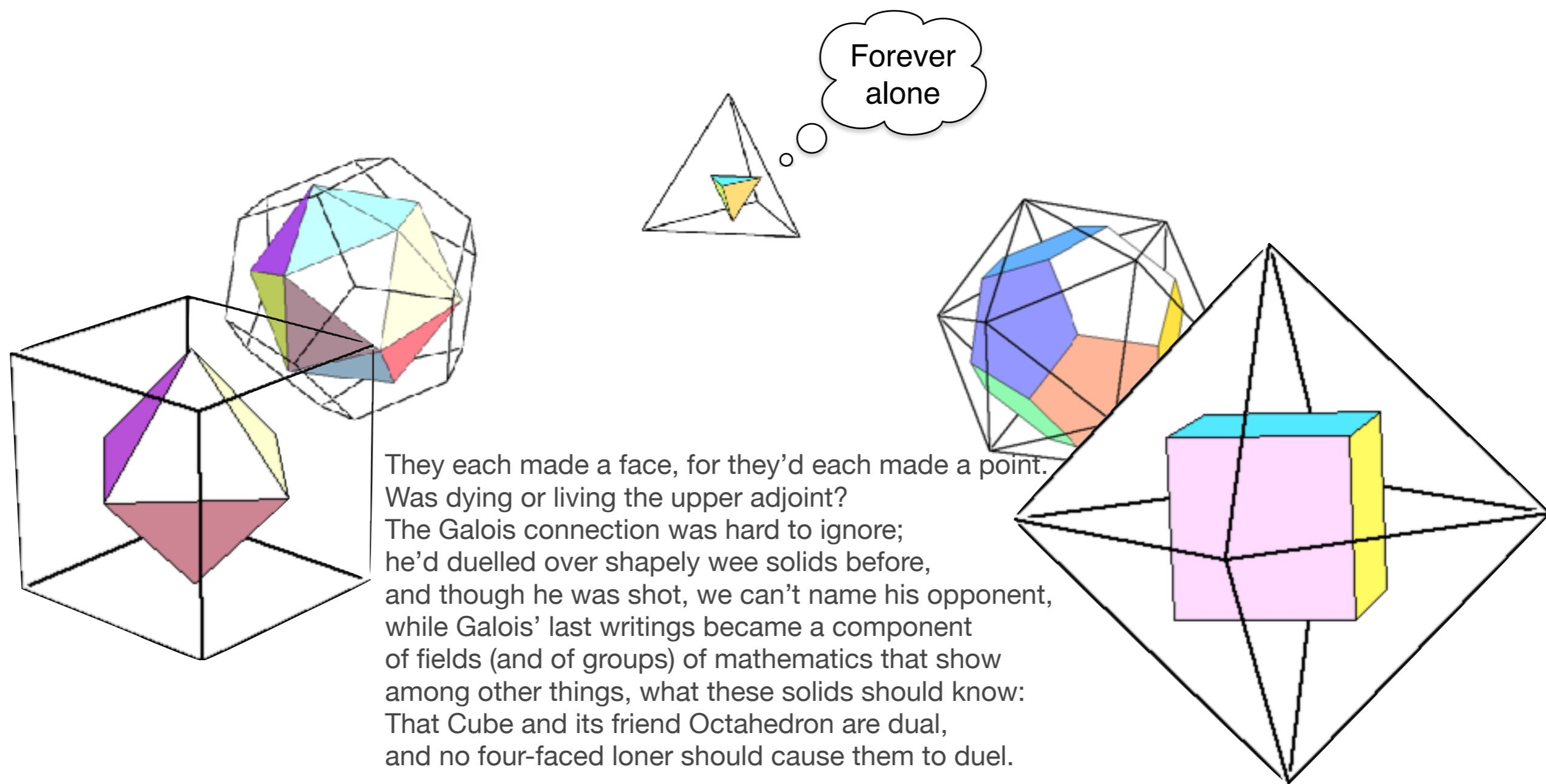
Angela Brett



At dawn, separated by twenty two paces,
their vertices pointed in each other's faces,
the cube and its foe Octahedron stood still,
as fair Tetrahedron urged 'fire at will!'
For Cube fought with earth, Octahedron with air,
and to win Tetrahedron with fire's not fair.
"Fight fire with fire, that's what we agreed on!"
said seconds, Dodeca- and Icosahedron.
But they paused, and they wavered, and called, "Toi ou moi?"
Who'll live for now, and who forever, like Galois?"

The Duel

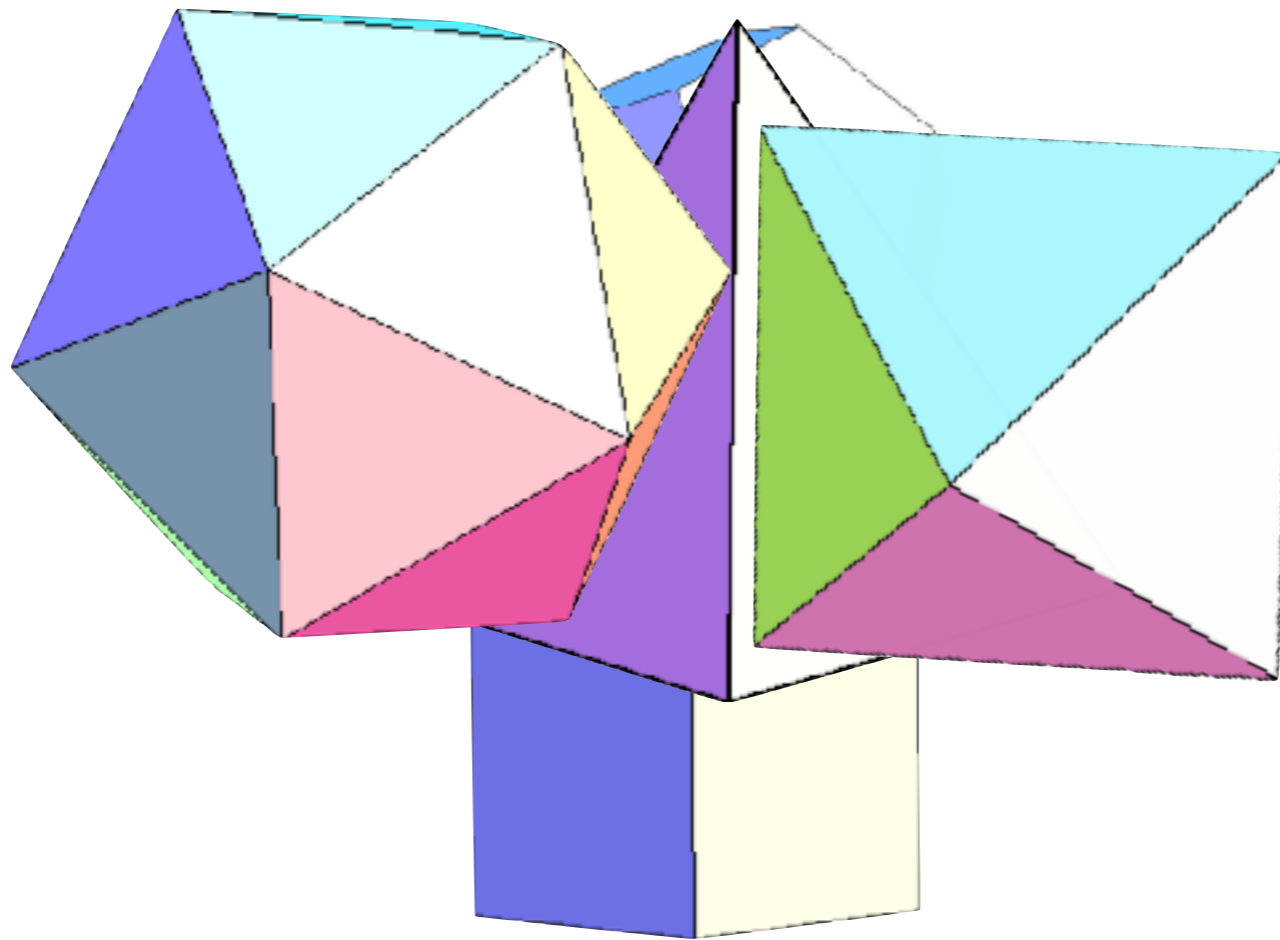
For more: <http://angelastic.com>



The Duel

For more: <http://angelastic.com>

At once, the two shook off their anthropomorphism,
and saw from their faces to points, isomorphism.
“You cannot kill me,” they each said to the other,
“For if I am a martyr, then so are you, brother,
and even though I’d be like Évariste too,
I’d rather not share such an honour with you.”
So they and their seconds proposed to their bride
that four eager suitors could each pick a side.
The pyramid’s answer was sweet but ironic:
“Of course you can share, but my love is Platonic.”



THEY MIGHT NOT BE GIANTS

"If I have seen farther," the scientist said,
"It's not because *I* am a giant.
"Great minds of the past have helped me get ahead;
it's their shoulders on which I'm reliant."

"Now listen to me!" said the great on whose shoulder
the first one was glad to have stood.
"I'm quite short of stature, it's just that I'm older
and those before *me* were so good."

And sure enough, this one was perched on the neck
of a giantist of great renown
who balanced in turn on another; by heck!
It's little guys all the way down.

And some were thought giants, and some were thought midgets,
and some were thought nothing at all,
but each would insist, "Those below were no idjits.
It's them that have made me so tall."

And scrambling around them their fans would aspire,
to see something not seen before
by climbing the tower of dwarves, ever higher
for glimpses, or footholds, or more.

Most could not scale to the summit in time,
before their peak fitness would end.
Some found it tough and abandoned the climb
while some would, with vigor, descend:

Aware that such heights were so taxing to reach,
they helped to lift people and hopes,
inventing new ladders and platforms to teach,
securing and showing the ropes.

"They might not be giants, but they must go far
and that journey isn't for me.
I'll boost them through science, raise them and the bar
and profit from what they will see."

So said the teacher while lifting a child
on shoulders so humble and stressed.
The youth saw a vista that had them beguiled
and bounded straight up to the crest.

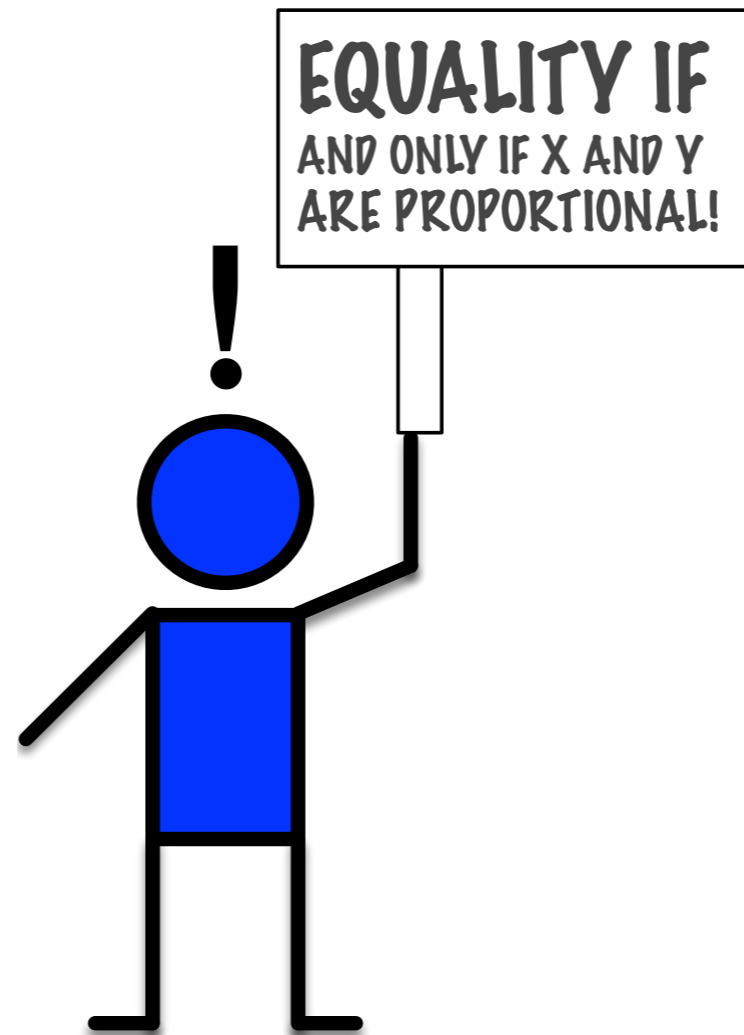
*Poem by Angela Brett
Art by Len Peralta*



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And now, some haiku

found with Haiku Detector: <http://spondee.software/apps/haiku-detector/>
in the Princeton Companion to Mathematics
For more, see <http://tinyurl.com/MathsHaiku>



And now, some haiku

found with Haiku Detector: <http://spondee.software/apps/haiku-detector/>
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But then again, who
can deny the power of
a glimpse at the truth?

And now, some haiku

found with Haiku Detector: <http://spondee.software/apps/haiku-detector/>
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The answer turns out
to be that we should weaken

And now, some haiku

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The answer turns out
to be that we should weaken
our hypotheses.

And now, some haiku

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It is important
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It is important
to have a broad awareness
of mathematics.

And now, some haiku

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law of large numbers,
753,
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